



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUL 3 2006

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

This responds to your letter of May 12, 2006, requesting the appointment of a special counsel to investigate the New Hampshire phone jamming scheme during the 2002 elections and potential connections between that scheme and White House officials or clients of lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

As you are aware, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement agencies are working with career prosecutors in the Department of Justice on the investigations of the New Hampshire phone jamming scheme and the activities of Mr. Abramoff. As a result of the phone jamming investigation, four defendants have been charged and three defendants have been convicted, including the former New England Regional Director of the Republican National Committee. In the Abramoff investigation, five defendants have been charged, and four defendants have been convicted, including Mr. Abramoff.


We assure you that the Department of Justice places a high priority on investigating and prosecuting public corruption offenses and any offenses affecting the integrity of our election process. These investigations will be handled fairly, appropriately, and impartially by dedicated career professionals in the Department of Justice, and the Department will take all steps that are necessary to insure public confidence in the fairness of these investigations.

We see no basis for appointment of a Special Counsel under the Department's regulations, 28 C.F.R. § 600.1, which were designed as a replacement for the former Independent Counsel Act. The Attorney General will continue to fulfill his solemn duty to enforce the law, and there is no reason to remove this investigation from the experienced and capable hands of career prosecutors in the Department of Justice.

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We appreciate your interest in the Department's efforts to combat public corruption. Please do not hesitate to contact this Office if you would like additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,


William E. Moschella
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Chairman